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SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH JORDAN'S KING  
ABDULLAH

Classified By: CDA DAVID HALE FOR REASONS 1.5 (b) (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. King Abdullah stressed to the Deputy Secretary his commitment to helping U.S. policy

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succeed in Iraq, described his offers of assistance to the IIG, and expressed concern about Iranian infiltration there. He emphasized concerns about instability in Saudi Arabia and the risk of spillover to Jordan and other neighboring states and described his need for additional assistance to improve border controls. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) Deputy Secretary Armitage met King Abdullah on July 12 for a half hour meeting. Royal Court Minister Rifai, Acting Foreign Minister al-Majali, and Charge joined them. The King stressed his intent to maintain his support for U.S. policy in Iraq; "your success is our success" there, he said. He was impressed by IIG Prime Minister Allawi, and said the right political dynamic had begun. However, the challenges posed by instability and insecurity in Iraq were acute, and aggravated by Iranian infiltration. At Iraqi request, Jordan would be providing 180 military vehicles (subject to third party transfer approval), in some cases stripped out of the royal guards' stock. In addition, the Iraqis would need driver training and maintenance support. The Jordanians had also offered to train Iraqi border and customs officials at Trebil, as they had identified serious deficiencies there.

[1](#)3. (S) King Abdullah expressed his concern over Syrian infiltration of weapons and explosives to Jordan. Some shipments (60-70%) were destined for the West Bank, others were being stored in Jordan to ship there later or for undetermined use. Jordan was witnessing a higher caliber of material, which was a source of concern. The King also saw a link between Syrian Military Intelligence and al-Qaeda/Zarqawi.

[1](#)4. (S/NF) The King saw a serious threat of instability in Saudi Arabia, the dimensions of which the leadership there was only beginning to understand. The security services were deeply penetrated by al-Qaeda. Abdullah worried about the flow of extremists into Jordan, noting that two Saudis and a Yemeni were recently arrested in Jordan and found to have been interested in potentially targeting the Iraq police training facility here. Other states bordering Saudi Arabia would face similar dangers, but for the most part did not seem to take the threat seriously. Abdullah said in particular he had sent a message to King Hamad to try to stiffen anti-terrorism action in Bahrain. In connection with Jordan's border security concerns, King Abdullah briefed the Deputy Secretary on his request for an additional USD 400 million in supplemental military assistance. Jordan needed more sophisticated equipment so it could rely less on manpower and more on technology to control the Saudi border.

[1](#)5. (C) In response to a point made by the Deputy Secretary, the King expressed readiness to secure

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parliamentary ratification of the U.S.-Jordan extradition treaty. He judged October to be the best time to do so, to avoid having the treaty become a point of contention in the upcoming race for Speaker.

[1](#)6. (C) At the King's request, the Deputy Secretary received a briefing from GID Chief Saad Khayr, which elaborated on security developments in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

[1](#)7. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.  
HALE